Abraham acted on faith

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for Sept. 14, 1980
Scripture references: Genesis 12:1-7; 17:1-21
Focal passages: Genesis 12:1-4a; 17:1-8
Early beginnings of a covenant community [Gen. 12:1-4a]

One of the more moving dramas of the Old Testament is that of Abraham's call and subsequent move from Haran. God's beckoning call to Abraham includes a command to uproot his family and move from their homeland to an unknown country.

So at the age of 75, Abraham and his family set out upon a pilgrimage towards the unknown. Such a move surely provided some anxious moments for Abraham and his family. Where would they live? What were the people like in Canaan? Would they survive the lengthy journey? How would they fare at their new address?

Abraham moved from Haran, which represents the secure and the familiar, to Canaan, which represents insecurity and the unfamiliar. If you have ever uprooted yourself and your family and moved to a new location, you won't have trouble identifying with Abraham.

But the thing that made the uprooting bearable was the knowledge that God was behind him and before him. God made seven specific promises to Abraham, "So Abraham departed, as the Lord had spoken to him."

God promised these seven things:

1. I will form from you a great nation.
2. I will bless you and your family.
3. I will make your name great.
4. I will make you a blessing to others.
5. I will bless them who bless you.
6. I will curse those who curse you.
7. I will bless all families of the earth through you.

With that kind of backing, Abraham set out in faith and obedience to the call of God. Whenever we are confronted with life-changing events, we, too, may look to God to walk with us from the start of the pilgrimage to journey's end.

The covenant is ratified [Gen. 17:1-2]

Abraham endured the pilgrimage from Haran to Canaan, but not without struggle. The years there passed with trials and hardships. Abraham must have surely wondered h ow a "great nation" could be established by a 75-year-old man and a wife who was barren. Particularly was this true 24 years later! Abraham was 99 and still he and Sarah had no son.

But God is a resourceful God, able to accomplish what appears to be impossible. Abraham must have recalled the promises God had made to him when he lived in Haran. Was God not going to make good what he had promised? Abraham learned that God does keep promises, that he does accomplish his good purposes, but only in his own time, in time, Abraham and Sarah had a son! (Wonder what it must be like to become parents at the age of 99?)

The covenant is explained [Gen. 17:3-8]

Abraham learned the joy of seeing and experiencing the dividends of faith. Once God delivered his promises, Abraham "fell on his face; and God talked with him..." God promised he would become the patriarch of great nations. Not only did God explain once again Abram's role in the divine scheme, but he also experienced a name change. Abram became known as Abraham.

The name change symbolized a renewed relationship and a ratification of the covenant. Abraham and Sarah were to play an important role in the unfolding drama of God's redemptive plan. Through Abraham and Sarah a new nation of people would emerge and "fill the earth."

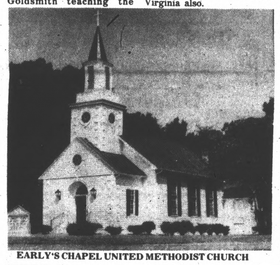
From Abraham onward these would be a continual growth of nations out of which would come forth God's servants. David and Solomon would rule the united kingdom, and once divided into Judah and Israel, others would come forth to lead. As nations grew and expanded, God's promise came to full blossom as Abraham would indeed become the father of many peoples."

God's promise would last as far into the future as one could see. It is comforting to live in a world with the faith that God is ultimately on the side of his people. We are all descendants of Abraham and members of the famed covenant that God established with our forefathers.

Early's Chapel Church plans homecoming

Early's Chapel United Methodist Church at Concord will hold its annual Homecoming this Sunday, September 14.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with Mr. Stanley Goldsmith teaching the adult Sunday School classes. Mr. Goldsmith is a Certified Lay Speaker and is the District Lay Leader for the Lynchburg District of the Methodist Church. He is the Town Manager of Altavista, Virginia also.



EARLY'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Richard G. Scott, former pastor of Early's Chapel United Methodist Church and now with The Hermitage in Richmond, will be the speaker for the 11:00 service. Mr. Scott is from Campbell County and was educated in local schools and college. John Hall will be leading the singing.

After a picnic lunch on the grounds, there will be an afternoon musical program beginning at 2:00 featuring several local groups.

All friends, former members and former pastors are invited to come and join us for worship, fun and fellowship.

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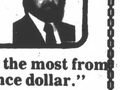

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The Pastor Speaks

By REV. C. H. DAVIS

Polio for years was a dreaded disease until the Salk vaccine came along. Polio causes a physical paralysis in certain parts of the body. Another disease that causes paralysis is sin. Medical case histories by certain psychiatrists validate the paralysis of a hand, or arm, forgetfulness, and even blindness, because of the tremendous guilt an individual is suffering as result of a wrong act or deed done in the past by the individual. Jesus knew long ago that his could happen. We read in Mark's gospel in chapter 2, verses 1-12, about the lame man suffering from a physical paralysis, who was brought to Jesus to be healed. In most of the healing incidents recorded in the Gospels by Jesus, He simply stretched out His hands and healed the person. However, in this situation, Jesus first told the man, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Of course this upset those around him because they knew that only God could forgive sins! I believe that Jesus wanted those around him to know that He was the Son of God and had the power of God residing in Him. But I also believe that Jesus knew that this man was now paralyzed because of a sin or sins that he had committed in the past and was suffering because of them. After Jesus forgave the man his sins, He told him to "arise, take up your pallet, and walk."

Many people today need to hear the loving words of Jesus say, "Your sins are

Appomattox Baptist Temple news

By GLORIA DAY

The Ladies Fellowship enjoyed their monthly birthday party at Babcock Manor this month with three celebrating birthdays for August. They were Mrs. Stratton, Alice Simpkins, and Ruth Wilkins. The cake and drinks were furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Carter Pankey. Doris Burrell took her guitar and they had a great time singing hymns. Donna Woods delivered the devotional message.

The Junior Church sang several songs and recited verses during morning worship service and awards were presented to those learning all their verses. Kim Woods won 1st place. Julie Gallagher, second, and Tracey Woods, third. Congratulations girls!

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PUBLIC AUCTION: Pursuant to the terms of the Security Agreements and Notes and in accordance with Section 46.1-93 and 8.9-504 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and other applicable sections of the Code, the undersigned will sell at Public Auction on Monday, September 22,1980 at Moses Motor Co., Inc., 310 Moses Street, Appomattox, Virginia at 10:00 A.M. the following:
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Miss Lisa Kay McCracken

Miss McCracken to wed Mr. Martin

Mr. and Mrs. John B. McCracken of Appomattox announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Kay, to William Anthony Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Martin also of Appomattox.

Miss McCracken is a student of Appomattox High School.

Mr. Martin was graduated from Appomattox High School and is an employee of Armstrong Furniture Co. of Appomattox.

The wedding will take place Nov. 15 at Liberty Chapel Baptist Church at 2 o'clock.

Although no invitations are being sent, friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Childers - Hamilton families enjoy reunion

The Childers-Hamilton families met on Sunday, August 24, 1980 for a reunion. Those attending were:

Mrs. Betty Reese Clippard from Huntington, West Virginia; Mrs. Norma Jean Reese Marshall from Chesapeake, Ohio; Lewis and Violet Childers from Roanoke, Virginia; Ed and Ian Childers from Evington, Virginia; Clyde E. Childers from Dumfries, Virginia; Mrs. Jeanine Bomar Pearce, Charles and Betty Baldwin, Beth Baldwin and Cheryl Baldwin from Madison Heights, Virginia; Irene and Wayne Leslie from Altavista, Virginia; Roger and Iva Pillow from Spout Spring, Virginia; .

Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton Lyles, Mrs. Gertrude Hamilton Ranson, Mrs. Beatrice Hamilton Johnson, Clint and Edith Childers, James Doss, Nancy Doss, Ruth Doss, Darrell Doss, Chris Doss, Anita Doss, John Childers, Martha, Joe and Tara Young, Jerry and Carrol Childers, Carolyn Childers, Mrs. Allene Barlow Lucado, Arnold Childers, Rachel Childers, Paul and Nancy Childers, Debbie Childers, Carroll and Virginia Childers, Kathy L. and Greg D. Frye, Joan Childers Burnham and her children, all from Lynchburg, Virginia.

And from Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Marsh, Mrs. Elma M. Lucado, Buster and Lorraine Lucado, Charlie and Nettie Johnson, Len Childers, Sr., Thomas Childers, Bob and Joan Holt and son, Mike, Pat Ann, Micah and Wyatt Torrence, Elliot and Lorraine Torrence, Dennis, Pat and Zane Torrence, Kitty Godsey, Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh, Grover Childers, Carolyn and Mandy Lucado, Sue and Bernard Childers, Carolyn, Steve and Greg Mayberry, Hunt and Pearl Hamilton, Mrs. Ruth Cole, Mrs. Addie C. Ould, Mrs. Helen B. Gunter, Mrs. Alice H. Folks, Mrs. Frances D. Herncall, Mrs. Lila B. Herncall, Allen Marsh, Steven Marsh, Nancy Marsh, Shirley Marsh, David Wayne Marsh, Betty and Charles Scruggs, Sam Conner, Mrs. Hollie Cawthorn, Mrs. Mary Sue Gordon, Mr. George Abbitt, Ms. Ann Ferguson, and Rev. and Mrs. G. E. Hughes.

Officers for the 1980-81 year are Mr. Hunt Hamilton, President; Mrs. Alice Herncall Folks, Secretary; and Mrs. Helen Barlow Gunter, Treasurer. The 1981 Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, August 23 in the W.O.W. Building, Appomattox, Va.

Homecoming slated

Homecoming will be held at Vera Church of God this Sunday, Sept. 14, starting at 1 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend this event. The Vibrations will be the featured vocal group.

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Society News

On August 30, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Brockwell, Sr., entertained with a buffet reception in their new home in Raleigh, North Carolina honoring Mr. and Mrs. Charles Albert Brockwell, Jr. who were married August 30, 1930. Among the guests were Mrs. G. P. Beasley, Jr. and Mrs. H. D. Folks, of Appomattox.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leveque and family of Richmond were weekend guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Garrett.

Todd and Betty Craft were hostess Saturday evening for homemade ice cream and cake for her sisters and brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leveque and three sons, Mrs. Gearlyn Garrett, Bobby Garrett and family and Teddy Garrett and family.

Shower honors Miss Layne

Miss Gail Layne, bride-elect, was honored on Saturday, September 6, 1980 with a miscellaneous shower given by Mrs. Pauline L. McFadden, Mrs. Estelle L. McFadden, Mrs. Florence L. Johnson, Mrs. Bettie L. Thomas and Mrs. Alice J. Layne, all aunts of the bride, at the Fellowship Hall of the Memorial United Methodist Church.

Miss Layne was presented a corsage by the hostesses.

The wedding color of apricot was used in the decorations and on the serving table. Miss Layne received many nice and useful gifts.

The wedding of Miss Layne to Thomas B. Wheeler will be an event of Saturday, September 27, 1980 at 7 o'clock at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Appomattox.

Families plan reunion

The families of the late Marshall and Howard Ferguson will hold a family reunion on September 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the Woodmen of the World Building in Appomattox.

Family members are invited to come and bring a covered dish. Supper will be served following a brief business session.

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Miss June Marie Harris

Miss Harris will wed Mr. Flowers

Mrs. Frances F. Harris of Appomattox proudly announces the engagement of her daughter, June Marie to Jeffrey Scott Flowers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Flowers of Lynchburg. June is the daughter of the late Mr. Emmett G. Harris of Appomattox.

Miss Harris is a 1979 graduate of Appomattox County High School and is presently attending Central Virginia Community College. She is also employed by Leggett Department Store in Lynchburg.

Mr. Flowers is a 1978 graduate of Brookville High School and is presently employed by Mead Company.

The wedding will be an event on Saturday, January 10, 1981 at 2 p.m. in the afternoon at New Hope Baptist Church.

All relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Christmas Cantata slated

If you like to sing and are interested in participating in a community Christmas Cantata please meet in the sanctuary of the Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church Thursday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m.

At this time a rehearsal schedule will be established and orders will be taken for music. The cantata to be presented will be "His Love, Reaching" by Bill and Gloria Gaither.

If you are interested and are unable to attend this organizational meeting please contact Teresa Crawford at 352-5910 after 4:00 p.m.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in music.

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Families plan reunion

The descendants of the late Tyler Coleman will hold a family reunion Sunday, Sept. 21 at the Harvey home place on Route 24 east of Vera.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend. Lunch will begin at 1 p.m., all attendees are asked to bring a picnic lunch to the reunion.

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Miss Rhonda Sue Womack

Places in Little Miss Virginia Pageant

Rhonda Sue Womack, daughter of Jimmie and Edna Womack of Evergreen, Va., was named second runner-up in the 1980 Little Miss Virginia pageant at the Hyatt House Hotel in Richmond on August 31.

Rhonda is seven years old and attends Appomattox Primary School as a second grader.

Rhonda received trophies as a state finalist, semi-finalist, and for the following competitions: swimwear overall appearance and smile first runner up; most photogenic second runner up; sportswear fourth runner up; and overall best swimwear first place.

She was sponsored by Wade's Texaco of Evergreen; Carwile Construction Co. Inc., The Clothesline and Gaines Jewelers in Appomattox, Tolley's Inc. and R&K Grocery in Pamplin; Baldwin's, Leggett's, Travis and Cumby Jewelers in Farmville; and Wilson's and General Store of Darlington Heights.

She was also supported by many friends and relatives including her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Womack of Evergreen and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E. Carwile, Jr. of Pamplin and great-grandmother, Mrs. Hugh E. Carwile, Sr. also of Pamplin.

Young Hearts members slate meeting

The Young Hearts Club will meet at Mt. Comfort Church Sept. 25 at 10:30. Everyone is asked to bring a sandwich.

Beverages will be furnished by the club.

Extension clubs plan meetings

The Country Lane Homemakers Club will meet Tuesday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Ann Cole.

The program will be on counted cross stitch. Members are to bring red and green embroidery thread, scissors, needle and aida cloth.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the club please call Penny Mongold at 352-7023.

The Appomattox Homemakers Extension Club will hold its regular meeting September 23 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Smith and Mrs. Helen Gunter at 10 a.m. Each member is asked to bring a covered dish. This is a very important meeting and all members are urged to be present.

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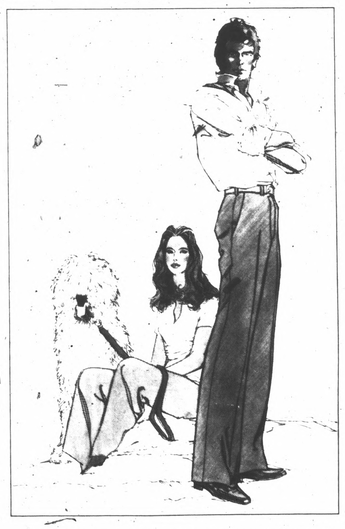

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